



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Aging Committee Public Hearing  
February 10, 2015

**Senate Bill 204, An Act Concerning Best Practices For Protecting Senior  
Citizens From Interaction With Sexual Offenders**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, in support of Senate Bill 204, *An Act Concerning Best Practices for Protecting Senior Citizens from Interaction with Sexual Offenders*. This bill would generally create best practices for protecting Connecticut's senior citizens from unwanted interaction with sex offenders.

As members of the Committee may know, this legislation is the outgrowth of the "Senior Safety Zone Task Force" that met this past fall. Senator Osten was the co-chair of this task force, and guided the group through a nuanced discussion on protecting seniors while also respecting the rights of past offenders. The Judicial Branch was represented on this task force, and without question, supported its efforts.

Improving communication when an offender moves into an area between law enforcement, including the Judicial Branch's probation officers, and community officials was identified as an area that could be improved. Communication between law enforcement and senior/community centers was also identified as an area that could be improved; fruitful discussions would allow community members to be better educated about any potential risk posed by an offender, and allows for the creation of a safety plan, if appropriate.

Representatives of the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) have met with the sponsors of this bill to begin this dialogue, and look forward to continuing to work with them to implement the goals of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.